

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 18947 01 OF 02 311723Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AF-06 EA-07 SAM-01

SAJ-01 /102 W

----- 076331

R 311620Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4939

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 18947

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VT, XF, XH, XA, IT, VN

SUBJ: THE VATICAN AND WORLD POLITICS

1. SUMMARY: POPE PAUL VI'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ADDRESS TO COLLEGE OF CARDINALS TRADITIONALLY SUMMARIZES SIGNIFICANT HOLY SEE ACTIVITIES DURING YEAR AND TRACES OUTLINE OF VATICAN POSITIONS ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. THIS YEAR'S MESSAGE CONTAINED PROMINENT COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING SUBJECTS: HELSINKI DECLARATIONS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 18947 01 OF 02 311723Z

RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST STATES, DISARMAMENT, MIDDLE EAST PEACE

EFFORTS, VIETNAM RECONSTRUCTION, AFRICA, AND CHURCH-STATE
RELATIONS IN ITALY. END SUMMARY.

2. INTRODUCTION: POPE'S MESSAGE TO COLLEGE OF CARDINALS DEC. 22
BEGAN ON AN UNDERSTANDABLE NOTE OF JOY AT MASSIVE PUBLIC RESPONSE
GIVEN TO CHURCH'S HOLY YEAR ACTIVITIES--SOME 8 MILLION PILGRIMS
CAME TO ROME DURING YEAR TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ONE-IN-25 YEARS
EVENT. BUT HE ALSO VOICED PAINFUL DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SOME
FAITHFUL (READ E. EUROPEANS) WERE UNABLE TO MAKE PILGRIMAGE
TO ROME BECAUSE OF "HOSTILE CLIMATE" IN THEIR COUNTRIES. IN THIS
CONNECTION, POPE WENT ON TO ASSURE THESE FAITHFUL, "WHO SUFFER
PRESSURES ON OR LIMITATIONS OF THEIR RIGHTS," THAT HOLY SEE, FOR
"EASILY GUESSED REASONS," IS EXERCISING "PRUDENT SILENCE" ON
MATTER, BUT THAT THIS DOES NOT SIGNIFY "INDIFFERENCE, NEGLIGENCE
OR FORGETFULNESS".

3. OPEN DIALOGUE WITH ALL STATES: IN CITING HIS 17 PERSONAL
MEETINGS HELD IN 1975 WITH CHIEFS OF STATE OR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT,
POPE PAUL NOTED THAT THIS DEMONSTRATED OPENNESS OF HOLY SEE TO
DIALOGUE WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM EVERY PART OF WORLD AND OF
EVERY POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL PERSUASION.

4. OSTPOLITIK CRITICIZED BUT REAFFIRMED: IN UNSTATED YET OBVIOUS
REFERENCE TO VATICAN RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST STATES OF EASTERN
EUROPE, POPE COMMENTED THAT, ALTHOUGH IN SOME CASES RESULTS OF
DIALOGUE APPEAR MEAGER, INSUFFICIENT, OR LATE IN ARRIVING, HOLY
SEE CONSIDERS IT ITS DUTY TO STAY COURSE RATHER THAN TO TERMINATE
DIALOGUE. IN DIRECT REFERENCE TO HELSINKI DECLARATIONS, POPE SAID
THAT PARTICIPATION OF HOLY SEE WAS FOR PURPOSE OF GIVING MORAL
SUPPORT AND TO BE SPOKESMAN FOR RELIGIOUS CONSCIENCE AND FOR
FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS. HE THEN STATED THAT HOLY SEE, TOGETHER
WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS, LEGITIMATELY EXPECTS "A SUBSTANTIAL
PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT IN INTERNAL CONDITIONS OF LIFE" OF
EUROPEAN PEOPLES AND THAT IT "INTENDS TO ACT SO THAT THESE
POSITIVE RESOLUTIONS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN OR GO UNOBSERVED." HE
FURTHER STATED HOPE THAT LETTER AND SPIRIT OF HELSINKI WILL ASSIST
IN BRINGING ABOUT, IN INTEREST OF BELIEVERS, ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS
WHERE SOME SITUATIONS OF HARDSHIP PREVAIL AND SPECIFICALLY CITED
IN THIS CONNECTIONS EXISTING SITUATIONS IN "CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ROMANIA
AND IN CERTAIN REGIONS OF USSR."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 18947 01 OF 02 311723Z

5. COMMENT: VATICAN EXPECTED HELSINKI SPIRIT TO FOSTER GREATER
PROGRESS IN ITS OSTPOLITIK BUT HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTED THAT THE
RESULTS SO FAR ARE NOT VERY PROMISING. ACCORDING TO VATICAN
SOURCES, EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DID NOT LIBERALIZE VISA PROCE-
DURES TO PERMIT HOLY YEAR PILGRIMAGES TO ROME AND THAT ONLY
GROUPS PERMITTED TO COME WERE AGREED UPON PRIOR TO HELSINKI.
FURTHERMORE, THERE WAS SLOW PROGRESS IN VATICAN'S OSTPOLITIK--

ITS TWELVE-YEAR-OLD EFFORT SEEKING NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH DURING 1975 DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH HUNGARY WERE FRUITFUL (ROME 16666 NOTAL) AND A BREAKTHROUGH EMERGED IN RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA (ROME 11709 NOTAL), THERE WAS PRACTICALLY NO PROGRESS IN RESOLVING OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS WITH SOVIET UNION, CZECHOSLOVAKIA (ROME 18526 NOTAL) OR ROMANIA--THUS POPE'S UNUSUAL SPECIFIC MENTION OF THESE COUNTRIES IN HIS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

6. DISARMAMENT: SUPPORT FOR SALT NEGOTIATIONS: CALLING FOR AND END TO DANGEROUS AND MORALLY REPREHENSIBLE PRODUCTION AND COMMERCE OF DESTRUCTIVE ARMS--A PROMINENT THEME IN RECENT DECLARATIONS BY POPE--POPE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS, SUCH AS THOSE OF SALT, WILL CONTINUE AND THAT RESPONSIBLE STATESMEN SHOULD EXERT "GOOD WILL, TENACITY AND POLITICAL WISDOM" TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES THAT STAND IN WAY.

7. AFRICA: NO TO NEW COLONIALISM: WITH RESPECT TO AFRICA, POPE DEPLORED RACIAL PROBLEMS BUT UNDERScoreD VATICAN'S SUPPORT FOR CONTINENT'S MARCH "TO COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE". HE ALSO UNDERLINED NECESSITY THAT AFRICA "DEVELOPMENT PROCESS" SHOULD NOT BE DISTURBED BY EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE WHICH SEEKS TO SUBSTITUTE OLD COLONIALISM BY NEW FORMS OF DOMINATION FOR PURPOSE OF POWER AND IDEOLOGICAL INFLUENCE." HE ENDED HIS COMMENT ON AFRICA WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ANGOLA, WHERE CHURCH'S ROLE IS SO LARGE, BY EXPRESSING VATICAN'S HOPE THAT "HONEST AND LOYAL UNDERSTANDINGS WILL REPLACE THREATENING CONFLICT AND THAT JUST AND INDUSTRIOUS PEACE WILL BE ESTABLISHED."

8. VIETNAM: IN RATHER LENGTHY COMMENT ON VIETNAM DEVELOPMENTS, POPE EXPRESSED HOLY SEE'S HOPE THAT NEW CHAPTER WHICH OPENED AT END OF 30-YEAR WAR WILL LEAD TO SEARCH FOR UNITY AND CONCORD WHICH WILL PERMIT HEALING OF PROFOUND LACERATIONS CAUSED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ROME 18947 01 OF 02 311723Z

LONG CONFLICT, AND THAT EXPECTED UNIFICATION OF COUNTRY WILL DEVELOP IN A FRUITFUL WAY, MINDFUL OF LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE. POPE ALSO NOTED THAT HOLY SEE HAS ENDEAVORED TO REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO DEVISE WAYS FOR ACTING FOR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE OF STATE AND CHURCH. HE ALSO URGED AUTHORITIES TO GRANT CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AND CHURCH SUFFICIENT ROOM FOR ACTIVITY IN RELIGIOUS SPHERE.

VOLPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 18947 02 OF 02 311736Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AF-06 EA-07 SAM-01

SAJ-01 /102 W

----- 076467

R 311620Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4940

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 18947

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

9. MIDDLE EAST: "FIAT PAX INVIRTUTE TUA."

(A) ENDORSEMENT OF "STEP-BY-STEP" NEGOTIATIONS: POPE RECALLED TO CHRISTIANS, JEWS AND MOSLEMS ANCIENT ACCLAMATION THAT PRUSUIT OF PEACE IS VIRTUE AND COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH PEACE HAS BEEN ELUSIVE IN MIDDLE EAST, IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE OBJECT NOT ONLY OF PRAYERS BUT ALSO OF ENERGETIC AND UNTIRING EFFORTS BY ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. HE URGED AVOIDANCE OF "STERILE AND DANGEROUS EXTREME POSITIONS" AND AN END TO VOICE OF TERRORISM AND INDIS-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 18947 02 OF 02 311736Z

CRIMINATE REPRISALS. HE ALSO STATED THAT DIALOGUE MUST BE ADVANCED

IN APPROPRIATE WAYS AND IN APPROPRIATE SITES. HE THEN DECLARED THAT BECAUSE HOLY SEE WAS CONVINCED OF NECESSITY FOR JUST AND PRUDENTLY BALANCED GLOBAL SOLUTION TO MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, IT WISHED TO URGE ALL RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES OF PARTIES CONCERNED "NOT TO NEGLECT CONCRETE POSSIBILITIES, EVEN MODEST ONES, WHICH OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO START NEGOTIATIONS AND TO ESTABLISH FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE WHICH ARE INDISPENSABLE FOR ADVANCING TOWARDS DESIRED CONCLUSIONS."

(B) APPEAL TO ISRAEL FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS: IN MOST DIRECT PUBLIC APPEAL EVER MADE BY POPE ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, HE STATED FOLLOWING: "EVEN IF WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE NOT TOO DISTANT TRAGEDIES WHICH COMPELLED JEWISH PEOPLE TO SEEK A SECURE AND PROTECTED GARRISON IN ITS OWN SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT STATE, AND BECAUSE WE ARE AWARE OF THIS, WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE THE CHILDREN OF THESE PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTS AND LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF ANOTHER PEOPLE, WHICH ALSO HAS SUFFERED FOR A LONG TIME, THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE."

(C) APPEAL FOR LEBANON: POPE NOTED THAT UNFORTUNATELY SITUATION IN LEBANON CONTINUES TO BE DANGEROUSLY INSECURE AND MEANACING IN SPITE OF SEVERAL EFFORTS TOWARDS PEACE--MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY CARDINAL BERTOLI'S NOVEMBER MISSION TO LEBANON.HE THEN ASSERTED THAT THOSE WHO ADMIRERD PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE OF MOSLEMS AND CHRISTIANS HAVE NATURALLY CONCLUDED THAT RECENT ERUPTIONS OF VIOLENCE CANNOT BE ADEQUATELY EXPLAINED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO OUT-SIDE FORCES. THE POPE THEN MADE FOLLOWING DECLARATION: "THE DESTRUCTION--FOR OBSCURE MOTIVES--OF A TRADITION OF TOLERANT CO-EXISTENCE AND SOUND COLLABORATION MUST NOT BE PERMITTED. LEBANON MUST BE PRESERVED AS AN EXAMPLE ALSO FOR OTHER AND MORE EXTENSIVE FORMS OF CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS COEXISTENCE IN MIDDLE EAST." STATING THAT RESTORATION OF TRANQUILITY IN LEBANON IS ALSO IN INTEREST OF NEIGHBORING PEOPLES, HE URGED LEBANESE CHRISTIANS TO RECAPTURE SPIRIT OF FRATERNITY AND TO SEEK PATHS TOWARDS CONCORD AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

10. ITALY: POPE PAUL MADE TWO REFERENCES REGARDING ITALY. FIRST HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "ITS PEOPLE, IN THE RESPONSIBLE AUTONOMOUS EXERCISE OF ITS DEMOCRATIC REIGHTS, WILL KNOW HOW TO CONSERVE INTEGRALLY FAITH IN CIVIC AND CHRISTIAN VALUES OF HERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 18947 02 OF 02 311736Z

ANCIENT TRADITIONS, IN ORDER TO REALIZE,WITH JUSTICE, ORDER AND RESPECT FOR THOSE MORAL VALUES WHICH ARE TOGETHER DUTY AND PROTECTION OF DIGNITY AND THE TRUE INTERESTS OF MAN AND OF THE NATION, THE PROGRESS AND HARD-WORKING TRANQUILITY TO WHICH, IN ALL FIELD, IT LEGITIMATELY ASPIRES. ON THIS ROAD IT WILL ALWAYS FIND THE CHURCH A HELP,NOT AN OBSTACLE." THEN, REFERRING TO THE 1929 CERDAT GOVERNING CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS, HE STATED: "WE WOULD LIKE AGAIN TO ASSURE THAT, WHILE WE FEEL IT VERY USEFUL,

STILL TODAY, FOR THE RELIGIOUS PEACE OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE TO
MAINTAIN A SOLID BILATERAL BASIS OF DISTINCTION OF THE RESPEC-
TIVE FIELD OF ACTION AND RECOGNITION OF RECIPROCAL RIGHTS AND
DUTIES, THE HOLY SEE REMAINS DISPOSED TO REVIEW AND MODIFY, IN
COMMON AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND ALWAYS IN THE HOPED-FOR
RESPECT OF THE LEGITIMATE AND ESSENTIAL NEEDS OF THE PARTIES,
THOSE POINTS WHICH NO LONGER APPEAR TO RESPOND TO THE NEW SITUATIONS.
"

11. COMMENT: REFERENCES TO CONCORDAT REPRESENT WELL ESTABLISHED
VATICAN POLICY,BUT WEAK POSITION OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT SIGNIFIES
THAT NO DEFINITE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IN NEAR FUTURE. EXPRESSIONS
OF HOPE THAT "CIVIC AND CHRISTIAN VALUES" WILL BE CONSERVED SHOULD
BE INTERPRETED IN CONTEXT OF CHURCH'S RECENT UNEQUIVOCAL STATE-
MENTS ON INCOMPATIBILITY OF MARXISM AND CHRISTIANITY.VOLPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME18947
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750451-0627
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975121/aaaaaagj.tel
Line Count: 292
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE VATICAN AND WORLD POLITICS
TAGS: PFOR, VT, XF, XH, XA, IT, VN, (POPE PAUL VI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006